

**Executive Officer's Statement**  
**California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board**

**October 29, 2004**

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Resource and information materials about domestic violence were made available by the Board and our website homepage featured a link to domestic violence resources at [www.safestate.org](http://www.safestate.org).

The Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence (Task Force) met in Redding on October 6, 2004. Ms. McGagin, a member of the Task Force, attended the hearing. California Attorney General Bill Lockyer convened the Task Force in December 2003 to study the effectiveness of how local criminal justice agencies respond to and deal with domestic violence. All hearings focus on restraining orders, holding batterers accountable, mandatory reporting, and prosecutors' offices. The Board's Victim Compensation Program helps victims of domestic violence that need to relocate, seek medical treatment, and find mental health counseling. The Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board plays an important role in helping victims of domestic violence. In fiscal year 2003/04, the Board's Victim Compensation Program received 14,474 applications and paid \$11,890,098 in benefits to domestic violence victims.

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victims of Crime Act**

October 12, 2004, marked the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984, and the beginning of a state-federal partnership in which \$4.8 billion in federal criminal fines and fees has been distributed to state crime victim assistance and compensation programs. Another \$1.2 billion has gone to support training and technical assistance initiatives, victim-witness staff at the federal level, Children's Justice Act grants, and other important purposes.

Administered by the Office for Victims of Crime in the U.S. Department of Justice, the Crime Victims Fund goes primarily to states to supplement state compensation resources and to support a variety of nonprofit and governmental victim assistance programs. California received \$64.8 million in VOCA funds this year to assist victims of violent crime. The grant is the largest ever in the 39-year history of the California Victim Compensation Program. During the 20 years of VOCA, California has received \$420.6 million in federal grants to help support the California victim compensation program.

**National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards**

Executive Officer Karen McGagin and Chief Deputy Richard Anderson attended the 2004 National Training Conference of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards (NACVCB) October 24-28. Approximately 200 directors and staff from compensation programs throughout the United States participated at the conference held in Charleston, South Carolina. Ms. McGagin served on a panel, where she discussed the Board's response to the terrorist attacks of September 11.

The Office for Victims of Crime helped fund the event, which was co-hosted by South Carolina's State Office of Victim Assistance. Seminars explored critical issues facing compensation programs including successful management of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants.

## **SB 631 Implementation**

SB 631 was signed into law on August 16, 2004. SB 631 designates the Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency as chair of the three-member Board and contains several provisions to aid in the collection of restitution. Board staff is in the process of implementing the provisions of this law and notifying counties of the changes.

Staff will provide training and materials to court clerks regarding the provisions of the parole violation revocation terms. The Board is exploring the use of electronic data exchange for handling minute orders received, and staff also plans to meet with the Judicial Council and the California District Attorneys Association to seek input and develop a process to forward orders and information to CDC. A questions and answers section on the Board's website will be created to assist counties in understanding the new laws.

## **New Board Staff**

Several new faces have joined or will be joining the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board team. They bring an array of experience, knowledge and skills to the Board and will be wonderful additions to our great organization. The new staff include:

**Deputy Executive Officer, Victim Compensation Program, Ted Boughton.** Ted spent over 10 years with the Board and has extensive experience in victim issues, understands the administration of the victim program, and knows the internal workings of the Board. He has administrative and management experience with a variety of governmental agencies and brings those skills to the Board. Ted will join us November 1.

**Deputy Executive Officer, Revenue Recovery and Accounting Division, Dennis Boydston.** Dennis has a broad range of fiscal and system implementation experience. He has implemented complex programs, regulations and laws and worked closely with board members at the State Allocation Board. He currently manages the School Facilities Program at the Office of Public School Construction. Dennis is expected to start on November 1.

**Staff Services Analyst, Revenue Recovery and Accounting Division, Tracy Southerland.** Tracy will join the restitution section and her assignment will be in the Franchise Tax Board collection area. Tracy comes to the Board from the Department of Personnel Administration and started her new duties on October 19.

**Staff Services Manager I, Human Resources, Terri Hamilton.** Terri is currently with the Real Estate Division at the Department of General Services. She has over 20 years of experience in the personnel field dealing with all aspects of human resource issues. Terri joins us November 1.

**Associate Government Program Analyst, Legislative Division, Neil Ennes.** Neil joins the Board from the State Teachers Retirement System and has legislative experience and extremely strong writing skills. He started at the Board on October 18.

**Associate Programmer Analyst, Information Systems Section, Iris Wang.** Iris is new to state service, and she has many years experience in information technology in the private sector. Before joining the Board, Iris worked as a consultant to the Attorney General's Office. She started at the Board on October 18.

**Program Technician II, Customer Service Unit, Chara Frank-Smith.** Chara joined the Board September 8 and is working in our Customer Service Unit. Chara previously worked at the Department of Consumer Affairs call center.